

Carlisle Conservation Commission
June 18, 2020
Minutes

Consistent with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place due to the outbreak of COVID-19, this meeting of the Carlisle Conservation Commission was conducted via remote participation. **(Virtual Meeting Zoom ID 854 4733 6445)**

Confirming Member Access: *Chair Dan Wells conducted a Roll Call Vote to confirm all members and, staff were present: Vice Chair Angie Verge – Aye; Helen Young – Aye; Alex Parra – Aye; Navneet Hundal – Aye; Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard – Aye; Administrative Assistant Mary Hopkins – Aye.*

Chair Wells - Introduction to Remote Meeting: In order to mitigate the transmission of the virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspended the requirement of Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and have been encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which is posted on the Town's website, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will feature public comment. For this meeting, the Conservation Commission is convening by Zoom conference as posted on the Town's website identifying how the public may join. Please note that this meeting is being recorded. Accordingly, please be aware that other participants may be able to hear you and anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording. All participants should keep their phones muted unless recognized by the Chair to reduce background noise and feedback. All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body can be made available on upon request. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda unless the Chair noted otherwise." Wells concluded with a review of the meeting ground rules to allow for effective and clear conduct of the Commission's business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

7:07 p.m. Commissioner Lee Tatistcheff joined the meeting.

Bills Approval: *On a motion made by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to approve the bills as presented by the Administrator: \$14.99 Zoom – May subscription renewal; \$119.92 Zoom – June annual subscription /reduced rate; Payroll; \$117.74 Mileage Cons Admin \$117.74. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

Minutes:

*On a motion made by Verge and seconded by Tatistcheff, it was unanimously voted to approve the **April 23, 2020** minutes as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

*On a motion made by Young and seconded by Hundal, it was unanimously voted to approve the **May 14, 2020** minutes as submitted. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

Project Updates:

(DEP 125-0966) 81 Russell Street/Garrison Place - Wetland Restoration: Solitude Management recently completed the first phase of treatment of Japanese Knotweed in accordance with the revised treatment plan as proposed by EcoTec, Inc. and approved by the Commission in April 2020.

(DEP 125-1060) Great Brook Farm State Park - Culvert Replacement: The culvert is now being faced with stone. Most of the coffer dam has been removed. Additional erosion control is to be installed and additional planting to be done along the edges of the stream where all vegetation was removed prior to grading.

(DEP 125-1068) 111 Carriage Way: The retaining wall was not constructed in accordance with the location shown on the approved plan. An As-Built plan will be required upon completion of the project.

(DEP 125-1079) 211 Bellows Hill Road, Restoration Plan: Invasive plants have been removed and replaced. The property owner will be submitting a copy of the nursery invoice to confirm the use of straight, native species in lieu of plant tags, which were removed prior to the site inspection.

(DEP 125-1070) 480 Rutland Street – Septic System Replacement: The property has changed hands. New owners are upgrading the house and preparing to begin work on the septic system. A request to remove three large pines was denied because the OOCs specifically precludes their removal.

(DOA-361) 901 Concord Street - APPEAL: MassDEP filed an appeal of the decision on June 12, 2020. The Commission will be notified when a site inspection has been scheduled.

Extension Permit:

(DEP 125-0966) Applicant: Steve Defoe, 570 West Street. Project: Construction of a subdivision roadway, including stormwater management, grading, installation of a fire cistern and pathway. Issued: 4/20/16, Extended to 6/20/20. Requesting 3 years.

Work to install the sidewalk along the driveway and the guards around the cul-de-sac is in process. Plantings of the stormwater wetland is also underway under the supervision of wetland consultant Leah Basbanes.

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to defer the decision pending additional documentation from the wetland consultant regarding construction of the stormwater wetland and pending removal of the debris located at the end of the cul-de-sac and adjacent to a vernal pool. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

Upcoming Meetings: August 6 and September 10, 2020

7:15 p.m. (DEP 125-1089) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Wilkins Hill Realty

Project Location: Curve Street, Map 19, Parcel 19-39-X

Project Description: Construction of a proposed driveway, including tree clearing and grading with approximately 1,560 SF of wetland fill associated with the driveway crossing using an open-bottom box culvert; construction of a single-family home; installation of a water supply well; construction of a 1,610 SF Wetland Replication Area and associated grading.

Wells opened the continued hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw and requested a motion to continue to July 9, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. at the applicant's request. The motion was moved by Verge and seconded by Parra. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

7:30 p.m. (DEP 12-1091) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Alison V. Pascarelli and Elizabeth Hudson Valentine, Trustees of the 566 Acton Street Nominee Trust

Project Location: Lot 12 West Street

Project description: Grading associated with a single-family house and a portion of driveway within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Wells opened the continued hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Dan Carr of Stamski and McNary presented a revised plan dated June 11, 2020 with the following changes based on comments at the previous hearing and on communications with CCF representative David Freedman: (1) the location of the driveway has changed to more closely match what is shown as the "Access Drive" on the Conservation Restriction Plans; (2) a 40-foot wide "Substitute Access Drive Area" is now shown per the Conservation Restriction; (3) a retaining wall is now proposed near the driveway and turnout to limit grading to within this 40-foot "Substitute Access Drive Area"; (5) two additional iron pins are proposed to better define the CR land – one located at the corner of the 40-foot wide access drive area and the other located at the end of the existing retaining wall. Willard asked Carr if they plan to reassemble the portion of the stone wall that was removed to provide access for soil testing. Carr confirmed the wall will be rebuilt in this location.

Wells opened the discussion for public comment. David Freedman said, to be clear for the record, although the proposed driveway does not match the access drive area shown on the subdivision plan, the final location can be determined with input by the applicant, subject to the Commission's approval of the revised location. Freedman said his main concern is in regard to the proposed bounds. He noted that on the northern side of the CR area the retaining wall creates a clear boundary but on the other side of the access area there are only iron pipes. He suggested a stone bound may be a better choice in terms of giving the homeowner/landscaper a clear understanding of the limit of work. Carr responded by stating he had discussed the commission's previous comments regarding the bounds with the applicant, and they would prefer an iron pipe in this location. He explained that when the CR was initially created, the requirement was for monuments at the corners at any change in direction of the building envelope, so it is their opinion that anything further is at the discretion of the applicant; however, if Commission determines a stone bound is required for the southern corner, they will agree to that. Following further discussion, the Commission determined granite monumentation will be required in this location.

Willard noted the plan references landscaping. The property owner will be required to return with a landscaping plan if any work is proposed outside the cleared area.

Tatistcheff moved to close the hearing for DEP 125-1092. Verge seconded. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye. Verge moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions with the following Special Conditions: (1) the stone wall located along West Street is to be rebuilt to its original condition; (2) the proposed iron pipe shall be replaced with a stone monument as discussed. Tatistcheff seconded. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

7:48 p.m. (DEP 125-1093) Abbreviated Notice of Resource Delineation, Continued Hearing

Applicant: Alison v. Pascarelli and Elizabeth Hudson Valentine, Trustees of the 566 Acton Street Nominee Trust

Project Location: West Street and Acton Street

Project Description: Confirmation of 16,925 linear feet of boundary delineated Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Wells opened the continued hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

The Commission discussed the two proposals submitted for the peer review for this project as submitted by David Pickard of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) and by Matt Burne of BSC Group.

Willard reported she received a very positive reference for Mr. Pickard from the Town of Concord's Conservation Agent, noting Pickard is also the part time Conservation Agent in 2 towns. She also pointed out that the peer review for the 81 Russell Street SROSC project was done by BSC. Wells noted a significant difference in the cost submittals, which he believes may be due BSC's higher billing rates based on the size of the organization. He said he personally knows of Mr. Pickard's work and is also aware that Matt Burne of BSC is a state-renowned vernal pool scientist, so he believes that in either case the Commission would have a highly respected professional undertaking the review.

Following further discussion of the scope of the proposals and a straw poll, *Wells said he would entertain a motion to hire Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc. to perform the ANRAD peer review based on the proposal from David Pickard. The motion was moved by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to continue the hearing to July 9, 2020 at 7:45 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

7:57 p.m. (DEP 125-1095) Notice of Intent

Applicant: Carlisle Municipal Facilities Committee

Project Location: 59 Morse Road

Project Description: Replacement of an existing, failing septic system

Wells opened the hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Dan Carr of Stamski and McNary presented the plan. The site is the location for the Carlisle Department of Public Works. There is an existing garage building, gravel driveway and parking area, a separate storage building, sheds, dumpsters, stockpiled soil and wood chips, and a generator. There are Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) associated with a pond

behind the existing garage, and the wetland extends west and south to the rear of the property. There is also a certified vernal pool outside of the wetland in the southwest portion of the property.

The existing, failed septic system is located under the gravel parking lot in front of the building. They are proposing to replace the system with a similar sized, Presby Advanced Enviro-Septic leaching system that will provide some treatment to the wastewater before it infiltrates through the ground. Both the septic tank and pump chamber are located outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone. A portion of the forcemain (FM) pipe is proposed within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a BVW and utilizes the existing gravel drive wetland crossing. The forcemain (FM) pipe also requires an easement across neighboring land to avoid the need to cross the pond with the forcemain to reach the proposed soil absorption system area. The plan shows both haybale/siltation barrier detail and Filtermitt®.

Wells noted they have shown two alternative erosion control details and asked what they plan for erosion control for the area down gradient of the work in the vicinity of the pond. His concern is that siltation fencing could potentially block amphibian migration so his preference from that perspective would be Filtermitt®. Wells then asked if the grantor of the easement will be signing the NOI. Willard clarified that although they did not sign the application, they have been named on Page 1 of the NOI form. Wells asked if the Commission will have access to their property during the site inspection. Willard will request confirmation.

Wells then opened the discussion for public comment. Steve Hinton of the Municipal Facilities Committee said he had drafted the easement documents which are now under review by town counsel. He noted the project will require Town Meeting approval for funding, so it has been decided that a license will be granted for the period of time between now and when the Town Meeting vote occurs. He noted the grantor of the easement has been very supportive of the project from the beginning and said he is confident they will be willing to sign the application if needed.

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to continue the hearing to July 9, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. with the representative's approval. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

8:12 p.m. (DEP 125-1092) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing

Applicant: David Chaffin

Project Location: 52 East Street, Map 22, Parcel 64

Project description: Repair of a failing subsurface sewage disposal system a portion of work to be located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland but greater than 50 feet.

Wells opened the hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw and requested a motion to continue the hearing to July 9, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. at the applicant's request. The motion was moved by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

8:13 p.m. (DEP 125-1094) Notice of Intent

Applicant: Justin Fishlin

Project Location: 54 Judy Farm Road

Project Description: Construction of a 2-story garage and extension of the existing driveway within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland

Wells opened the hearing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

Kurtis Platteel of Stamski and McNary presented the plan. The site contains an existing single-family dwelling, a sewage disposal system, and appurtenances. There are Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) located on the south side of the lot. A portion of the existing house and the entire driveway are located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of BVW. In addition to the construction of a two-story garage/structure and extension of the existing driveway, Platteel noted the applicant also proposes to also repave the driveway, include a sewage extension to the new structure, and construct an impervious pergola connection from the garage to the house with associated grading. A siltation barrier is proposed down gradient of the proposed work to prevent any indirect alterations to the wetlands.

Verge recommended infiltration measures and/or mitigation plantings due to the increased impervious surface and the proximity of the work to the wetland. Tatistcheff said it appears the plan close to doubles the amount of impervious surface on the site and includes work within 25 feet of the wetland. She noted the Commission does not frequently approve construction this close to a wetland unless it is replacing an existing structure and in this case the impact to the wetland is of great concern. She asked why they had not located the garage on the other side of the driveway. Platteel said they were constricted by the septic system setback requirements and by the existing gas line. Tatistcheff suggested they consider significant mitigation and possibly reducing the size of the garage. Young also questioned the size of the garage, asking how many vehicles it was designed to accommodate. Applicant/owner Justin Fishlin noted they are removing an existing shed, so part of the space will be used for storing landscaping tools/outside storage and up to 3 vehicles. He said they are also in the process of applying for an accessory apartment permit with the Planning Board. He noted they had reduced the bedroom count when they did the house renovation project two years ago and said he believes the existing septic system should be adequate. Platteel said the project is concurrently under review by the BOH and they anticipate a decision soon.

Wells requested the proposed corners of the garage as well as trees to be removed and the limit of work are clearly indicated in the field prior to a site visit with date t/b/d.

On a motion by Hundal and seconded by Tatistcheff it was unanimously voted to continue the hearing to July 9, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. with the representative's approval. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

8:25 p.m. (DOA-362) Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Mayra Garcia and David Harburger

Project Location: 979 Concord Street

Project Description: Removal and replacement of shrubs with native plants

Wells opened the meeting under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

David Crossman of B & C Associates presented the plan. The site consists of approximately 2.6 acres. Existing vegetation consists of lawn and wooded area. On the northern and eastern sides of the property there is Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). Associated with the BVW is a 100-foot Buffer Zone which projects onto the property towards the existing dwelling. There are numerous clumps of invasive plant species located within Buffer Zone of a BVW on the northern side of the property. There are also several isolated clumps located along a ditch just east of the house. These species include, but are not limited to, European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), Winged Euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*), Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tartarica*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*).

Crossman noted there was an error in the wetland flag sequencing on the plan which will be corrected. He will also be adding an additional flag based on Willard's recommendation following a recent site inspection, noting this addition will have no impact on the project. Willard said she observed healthy stand of Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) adjacent to WF #54 which she believes should be captured on the plan. She also observed a substantial number of highbush and lowbush blueberry bushes in the restoration area by the driveway, which she recommends should be preserved. She noted an area where she observed some Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) within the Buffer Zone to the rear of the home which the homeowners may want to consider removing as well. Willard noted this property was before the Commission in 2016 & 17 under different ownership. The BVW delineation to the north of the house is the same as previously delineated, but the BVW delineation to the east and upslope from the home is very different. Willard attributes the changes to natural movement of the wetland and recommended the delineation be accepted as submitted.

Crossman then reviewed the Invasive Plant Management Program he had prepared for the applicants as follows: The following work shall be undertaken by a qualified individual ("Botanist") as defined in the plan and upon approval by the Commission prior to the start of work: (1) The invasive plant species shall be identified prior to removal by either the landscaper or the Botanist; (2) – Since almost all of the vegetation north and northwest of the driveway are comprised of multiple invasive plant species, the recommendation is to remove all of the shrubs shown on the attached plan in the red outlined area. There are virtually no native shrub species in this area. Only the trees, which are all native, should remain; (3) These invasive species can be removed with the assistance of a small backhoe, other small equipment or by hand as deemed necessary by the landscaper; (4) Oriental Bittersweet will be cut flush at ground level. The remaining end of the plant should be painted with an herbicide approved by the Conservation Commission. However, if the homeowner chooses not to use any herbicides, the Bittersweet must be cut flush with the ground every year in order to control the spread of this plant. All other

invasive plant species shall be either cut flush to the ground or pulled out with the root system intact; (5) The removed plants shall be properly disposed of off-site; (6) All trees with a caliper of 5 inches or greater will not be disturbed in any form; (7) A plant list of all proposed new native species plantings shall be submitted to Conservation Commission for approval prior to planting; (8) Upon completion of all work, biannual reports shall be provided to the Conservation Commission detailing the success rate of the invasive species removal. Each report will also contain information on the success of the native species plantings. These reports will be provided for three years from the completion of the invasive species removal effort. Each report will contain photographs from the same stations year to year.

Property owner/applicant Mayra Garcia requested clarification as to whether they will be required to go through another formal review process once they have identified the plant species they wish to incorporate into the planting plan. Wells explained that since this request is being made through a Request for Determination of Applicability vs a NOI, it is appropriate for the Conservation Administrator to approve the list subject to her review. Verge noted the plan indicates "remove all shrubs and replant..." and requested clarification that this will include only invasive plant species, with existing native plants to remain. Crossman confirmed.

Wells asked the applicants if they fully understood the monitoring/reporting requirements included in the management program. Mayra said her understanding is they would retain the services of someone with experience in identifying invasive plants for removal. She said she plans on following up with Mr. Crossman for guidance in moving forward once the request has been approved. Verge, who is a certified landscape professional/horticulturist, said she lives nearby and would be happy to assist the homeowners in identifying native plants that should be retained.

Tatistcheff thanked the homeowners for their willingness to move forward with helping the town maintain these public resources by managing the invasive species on their property with the filing of an RDA.

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Verge, it was unanimously voted to issue a Negative Determination B3 based on the Invasive Species Management Program dated April 9, 2020, the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the Regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act, with the following Conditions: a revised plan with updated wetland flagging shall be submitted as discussed; no native shrubs shall be intentionally removed during this process. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

Cranberry Bog - Directional Walking: Fiske Street resident and Cranberry Bog Working Group Associate member John Ballantine was present to discuss his concerns regarding the increased visitation to the Cranberry Bog trails during the COVID-19 pandemic as one of many issues he believes exist relative to the current lack of stewardship and management. He acknowledged that part of the issue is due to the fact that the CBWG and LSC have been focused on evaluating future uses of the bog and the Commission has been managing an ongoing heavy workload. He has observed a tremendous increase in usage of the bog by people from out of town who are not practicing social distancing. Ballantine referenced the photographs he had previously submitted to the BOS and to the Commission showing the town of Acton's approach to managing increased foot traffic at NARA park with directional walking signage and he advocated for such measures to be taken to promote social distancing at the Cranberry Bog.

Cranberry bog abutter Chris Spinney of Fiske Street said he has been monitoring foot traffic at the bog regularly and has frequently observed large family groups walking in opposite directions. He has drafted a proposed circulation plan based on these observations for the Commission's review, noting that even if only some voluntary compliance is achieved it may be enough to reduce the risk of exposure.

With regard to land management, Ballantine expressed concern that the town has not adequately addressed the successional growth occurring at the bog since agricultural activities ceased four years ago. He suggested he and other volunteers could work with the LSC to come up with a plan to accomplish the work needed.

Young agreed there is a need for maintenance but was hesitant to support the directional walking signage proposal, since the rules may alienate visitors. Hundal said that from a medical perspective, being outdoors lowers the risk of exposure to COVID-19, but that being said, she acknowledged there are areas on the bog that are very tight, particularly if people are standing. She suggested that encouraging directional signage would be beneficial to visitors rather than a mandate. Belitz agreed the main issue is when visitors are standing in groups, but in walking the bog daily he said he has observed that most people maintain appropriate distances from others, and he does not believe circulation will change the situation. With regard

to addressing successional growth, Belitz agrees that tree work is needed to maintain the vistas, suggesting the town could hire someone to brush hog the areas needing attention, particularly the maples in the northwest quadrant, now standing at 3 -6 feet tall. Wells suggested the Commission could redirect some of the time under Mark Duffy's annual maintenance agreement to undertake the brush hogging work. Parra, Verge and Tatistcheff agreed that directional walking should be recommended vs mandated. Parra suggested the town could post the town wide trail maps at the bog entrance to show alternative places to walk if congestion is a concern.

Land Stewardship Committee member Debbie Geltner said LSC had previously discussed the potential for implementing directional walking signage and is not in favor of it in general for several reasons including difficulty in enforcement. She said the problem is the density that occurs at the bog and getting people to walk in one direction would be challenging. LSC's recommendation is to control the parking to help reduce the number of visitors and to improve sight lines along Curve Street, which at high visitation times has been a significant safety concern.

Moving forward, Geltner agreed to update LSC members on tonight's discussion regarding ongoing management and will coordinate a discussion at their next meeting scheduled for July 14. Parking control will be further explored with the BOS and the Carlisle Police Department.

Open Space and Recreation Plan: 7-Year Action Plan Revision for 2020 Plan

The Commission conducted a final review of the Plan with revisions from the previous meeting. Present for the discussion was Kay Hurley of School Street who had submitted recommendations based on her comments at the previous hearing. She suggests including a formalized town-wide plant and wildlife inventory as a "High-Priority Initiative" within the section titled "Plant and Wildlife Inventory" with the following suggested text: "Establish and formalize an official repository for recording and updating the biodiversity in Carlisle. Populate it with existing data and launch programs to build on it. Use it to bring together the work already being done by interested and competent parties, to track changes over time, and to provide a basis for decision making by any town body."

OS&R Committee Chair David Freedman spoke in support of Hurley's suggestion. He believes it would greatly facilitate the production of a town-wide database if there were a centralized location. His suggestion is that the Commission include it in their 7-year action plan in order to get the ball rolling, noting that the LSC has already submitted their 7-year plan.

Young was very much in support of Hurley's proposal, noting that if people are already working on it, the town ought to formalize the effort, since it seems to her to be part of what conservation is. Hundal also supported the concept but said she is aware there is a whole push in town to look to innovative ways to get the work and not rely so heavily on a system of already overworked volunteers. Verge agreed it is something that should be included in the plan, but not as a priority given work that will be required to accomplish the existing initiatives.

Wells suggested the Commission could consider rewording the proposed language as a compromise. Belitz suggested supporting an official repository by including the initiative as a declaration of intent, without requiring it to get done, in light of concerns with overburdening volunteers. He then provided proposed modifications to Hurley's submission, with the vote as follows: *On a motion by Verge and seconded by Parra, it was unanimously voted to add the language as submitted by Kay Hurley and as revised by Belitz. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to adopt the revised language for the Conservation Commission's 7-Year Action Plan as submitted by Willard based on previous discussions. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

Open Space and Recreation Report: Parcel Ranking Session: June 25, 7:00 pm and Monday, June 29, 7:00 PM via Zoom

FY21 Election of Officers: *On a motion by Young and seconded by Verge, it was unanimously voted to elect Lee Tatistcheff as Chair as of July 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to elect Angie Verge as Vice Chair as of July 1, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.

FY20/FY21 Budgets: *On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Verge, it was unanimously voted to authorize the administrator to encumber funds available to support FY21 conservation land maintenance including mowing of both the Benfield and Towle fields and ongoing Towle Field invasive plant management treatments. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

Greenough Dam Grant Application Update: Willard reported she the state is planning to release this grant during this summer. She is in contact with project engineer Bob Stephens of Stephens Associates, who has indicated his willingness to assist in reviewing the grant application and in providing an estimated construction schedule for a cost of \$1,500. *On a motion by Tatistcheff and seconded by Young, it was unanimously voted to approve a \$1,500 expenditure from the Conservation Gift Fund to cover the consulting fees as described. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

9:55 p.m. *On a motion by Verge and seconded by Hundal, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Verge – aye; Tatistcheff – Aye; Belitz – Aye; Parra – Aye; Young – Aye; Hundal – Aye and Wells – Aye.*

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hopkins
Administrative Assistant

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body can be made available on upon request